

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JUNE 1982

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Military Situation -- Although the IDF spokesman said that IDF clashes with Syrian forces on 8 June had been on a limited scale, Lebanese military sources subsequently announced that Israeli and Syrian units engaged in heavy artillery duels near the main Beirut-Damascus highway, according to Jerusalem radio reports. Beirut radio spoke of violent battles between Syrian and Israeli forces for control of the Al-Mudayrij area and the Beirut-Damascus highway on 9 June. Four Israeli warships bombarded Beirut, which the Israelis may attempt to besiege, the radio said. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon reported that another Syrian plane was downed early on 9 June. The Syrians lost seven planes the previous day, two of them over the Galilee panhandle, according to IDF radio and Jerusalem television. However, in a statement carried by Damascus television, a Syrian spokesman said the Israelis lost five planes while Syria lost three. The spokesman said Syrian forces thwarted an Israeli landing attempt at Khaldah, on the coast south of Beirut, and they clashed with IDF columns advancing toward Ash-Shuf and Jazzin. Nevertheless, an Israeli armored division reached Ash-Shuf on its way to complete a pincer movement round Ad-Damur, according to AFP. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that the IDF had reached Al-Baruk, east of Bayt ad-Din, and was exchanging artillery fire with Syrian forces in Hammana, to the north. The radio also said Syrian and Israeli tanks and artillery were engaged in a battle near Libbaya at the southern end of the Al-Biq'a Valley. Earlier reports by the radio claimed that the Syrians withdrew from several positions in the mountains toward the Al-Biq'a Valley and that they also moved SAM's from Al-Biq'a to an unknown destination. Jerusalem radio cited an AP report that the Syrians were sending reinforcements, including missiles, to Beirut.

Along the coast Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces repulsed Israeli attacks in Sidon and Ad-Damur, according to a statement by their military spokesman broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio early on 9 June. The spokesman also said Palestinian forces were still operating against Israeli lines of communication to the south and subsequently announced that joint forces destroyed two IDF tanks near Tyre. However, Jerusalem radio reported that Tyre had been completely purged and that 70 terrorists were killed in a battle northeast of Sidon, where the IDF had also begun its purge of terrorists. Although Voice of Lebanon reported that the IDF captured the 'Ayn al-Wulwah refugee camp in Sidon, a joint force statement carried by the Voice of Palestine said the attackers were forced to retreat and lost 11 tanks. Meanwhile, Israeli planes raided Beirut, Ad-Damur, Khaldah and Sidon, according to Voice of Palestine and Voice of Lebanon reports. Statements carried by Voice of Palestine on 9 June reported fierce fighting between the joint forces and the IDF in villages on the slopes of Mount Hermon and in the southern end of the Al-Biq'a Valley.

Casualties -- Early on 9 June the IDF spokesman announced that 7 Israeli soldiers were killed and 48 were wounded during the past day, Jerusalem radio reported. The joint forces said they destroyed a further 66 tanks and 35 personnel carriers and killed or wounded 245 Israelis, Beirut radio reported early on 9 June. The radio said Israel now has 85,000 troops in Lebanon.

Golan Reinforcements -- The IDF has mobilized reservists and reinforced its deployment on the Golan Heights, Jerusalem radio reported. If large-scale clashes with the Syrians occur in Lebanon, the IDF will be free to choose the arena for its reaction, the radio said. Meanwhile, the Syrians have cut roads to their military base at Qatana, south of Damascus, possibly signalling troop movements toward the Golan or Mount Hermon, AFP reported.

Begin Speech -- Israel's job will be completed and all fighting will stop if "we can push back the line 40 km from our northern border," Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared in a speech to the Knesset carried live on Jerusalem radio. Begin asserted that Israel does not want a war with Syria and called on the Syrian president to instruct the Syrian Army not to attack Israeli soldiers. Begin underlined that the terror in the Middle East must be removed. He stated that Israel had exercised its right to self-defense and does not want any Lebanese territory.

Withdrawal Conditions -- Voice of Lebanon radio cited diplomatic sources as saying Israel has laid down the following conditions to end the war: Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon; withdrawal of the missiles from Al-Biq'a; return of southern Lebanon to Lebanese sovereignty; and disarmament in southern Lebanon to a depth of 40-60 km.

Israeli Warning -- Israel has sent a message to Jordan calling on it not to intervene in Lebanon and "repeat the mistake it made in the 6-day war," Jerusalem radio reported.

Israeli-U.S. Contacts -- IDF radio reported without details a meeting between Prime Minister Begin and U.S. envoy Philip Habib. It added that Habib would probably be departing for talks in Damascus. In his 7 June meeting with Habib, Begin said Israel will never go back to the situation that existed before the invasion and it will not leave Lebanon until an arrangement is found, according to a political correspondent interviewed by Jerusalem radio. The radio also reported that Secretary of State Alexander Haig will visit the region within 10 days to make contacts in Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut and Riyadh in anticipation of the consolidation of a new arrangement in Lebanon. According to another radio report, Israel asked the United States to allow it to complete the operation in Lebanon. However, HA'ARETZ reported that in the wake of fears about a confrontation between the IDF and the Syrian Army, Israel has asked the United States to intercede with Syrian authorities to remove PLO pockets from the eastern region in Lebanon.

Arab Initiatives, Reaction -- In a message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis requested that invitations be addressed to Arab leaders to hold an urgent Arab summit, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Beirut radio subsequently reported the arrival of Klibi in Lebanon where he met with Sarkis.

According to the Voice of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon and handed him an urgent message for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in connection with the Israeli invasion. The radio also carried another urgent 'Arafat message to Arab leaders which said that the "massacre plot" being implemented by Israel, with the consent of the United States, demands the adoption of a responsible Arab stance.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a statement to reporters, asserted that Egypt's position on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon is "frank and clear," MENA reported. He added that he had not yet received a response to his message to Begin. According to AFP, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali dismissed calls from members of the People's Assembly for a freeze in Egyptian-Israeli relations as "not in Egypt's interest."

Meanwhile, JANA reported that Col Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi held an urgent telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafez al-Asad, during which he was assured of Syria's steadfastness with the resistance forces. Contacts are continuing at all levels among Steadfastness and Confrontation Front members, according to the press agency.

Iran will not hesitate to enter the war should Syria and Lebanon request it, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati declared at a New York press conference, Tehran radio reported. He said Iran is prepared to go to war with Israel whatever the cost.

Egypt

President Mubarak received Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta, MENA reported. Boucetta told newsmen after the meeting that the subject of Egyptian-Moroccan and Egyptian-Arab relations has begun to take shape with his visit.

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1

AFGHANISTAN

AFP Reports Soviet Troops Massing in Kabul C 1
AFP Details Operation Against Rebels in Panjsher C 1

INDIA

Spokesman Views Pakistan's No-War Proposal E 1
Departing Pakistan Envoy Cites Hopes for Dialogue E 1
U.S. Plan To Back Democratic Forces Denounced [AFP] E 1
Indian Air Force Aircraft Crashes in Punjab E 1

PAKISTAN

Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon Condemned F 1
Yaqub Khan on Israeli Incursion, Gulf War [QNA] F 1

IRAN

Military Commanders' Predeparture Statements I 1
Montazeri Calls for Arab Unity To Fight Israel I 1
Rafsanjani on Lebanon, Gulf War, Peace Missions I 3
PLO Envoy Briefs Khamene'i on Lebanon Situation I 3
UAE Presidential Adviser Arrives in Tehran I 4
Delivers Message to Khamene'i I 4
Velayati Cited on Readiness To Fight Israel I 5
OPEC Secretary General Arrives in Tehran 8 June I 6
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 938 I 6
NVOI: Iraqi Regime Initiator of Gulf War I 7
Khomeyni Appoints Reconstruction Official I 8
Clandestine Reports on Unrest in Cities I 8
[Free Voice of Iran]
'Execution' of Tehran Clergyman Reported I 9
[Free Voice of Iran]
NVOI Scores Iranian Coverage of Afghan Fighting I 9
Afghan Mujahidin Attack Soviet Base in DRA I 10
Briefs: Gold, Currency Seizure; Khorasan Coal Reserves I 10

AFP REPORTS SOVIET TROOPS MASSING IN KABUL

BK050908 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 5 Jun 82

[Text] Islamabad, 4 Jun (AFP) -- Soviet troops were massing in Kabul while army patrols searched vehicles and forcibly dragged Afghan youths into military trucks, travellers from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar reported.

Quoting reports from Kabul, the travellers said there had been "heavy concentrations" of Soviet troops during the past few days.

Meanwhile, shops and bazaars remained largely closed in Jalalabad today as the Afghan Army patrolled the garrison town, proceeding with arrests.

The sources said that an unidentified senior government official in Jalalabad was gunned down yesterday near the Hindu temple.

Young Afghans have virtually disappeared from the streets, they said, adding that there have been new reports of conscription drives by the Afghan authorities. Shops which opened today, estimated at less than half of those in the city, were manned by old people.

Other reports said that Moslem guerrillas in Kabul killed a senior executive of the state-run Kabul radio last Wednesday.

The official, who was not identified, died when guerrillas hurled a grenade at his car in Chara Sia sector of Kabul. Sources said the official might be Abdul Mannan Malgrami, the only senior radio official in the area.

AFP DETAILS OPERATION AGAINST REBELS IN PANJSHER

BK081646 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] New Delhi, 8 Jun (AFP) -- Soviet and Afghan forces appear to have succeeded in clearing the Panjsher Valley, northeast of Kabul, of rebel resistance following a massive offensive, according to Western diplomatic sources here today.

At least three Afghan and one Soviet divisions, involving a total of about 20,000 men, considering the depleted strength of the Afghan division, were believed to have been used in the operation, which began in mid-May, the sources said, quoting reports reaching diplomats in Kabul.

There was no detailed information in the extent of casualties on both sides in the fighting, although it was believed to be heavy.

Soviet special airborne troops with armour and light artillery were flown by helicopters to the northern end of the valley to seal off all passes, the sources indicated.

Advancing from the southern end, the bulk of the Soviet and Afghan forces penetrated as far as 50 km (30 miles) into the valley in a well-planned trapping operation, the sources added.

The sources, however, considered less certain the Afghan Government claims to wiping out Moslem insurgents in the Panjsher Valley area.

The mujahidin resistants never confronted the Soviet forces directly when they were outnumbered and outgunned, and retreated to mountain hideouts to carry on the fight as guerrillas, they pointed out.

They also noted that the Soviets and the Afghan Government would have to deploy sizeable forces permanently in the valley to maintain control and keep the area free of insurgency.

SPOKESMAN VIEWS PAKISTAN'S NO-WAR PROPOSAL

BK071610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 82

[Text] India feels that Pakistan's draft of a no-war pact requires considerable amendment, modification and additions. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry confirmed in New Delhi today that the draft was handed over to Secretary in the [External Affairs] Ministry Natwar Singh in Islamabad last week. But he declined to reveal its contents. It is being examined by India with a view to enlarging its scope and making it more comprehensive. India's detailed comments on the draft will be conveyed to Islamabad at the appropriate time.

The spokesman said at first glance we felt that the draft required changes to bring its formulation into lines with the seminal principles which should guide both countries in evolving a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation. He said the next round of talks could be held on the basis of understanding reached during the then Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi's visit to Delhi in January this year.

DEPARTING PAKISTAN ENVOY CITES HOPES FOR DIALOGUE

BK081613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Outgoing Pakistan ambassador in India Abdul Sattar has expressed the hope that the resumed dialogue between the two countries will yield mutually beneficial results. He said it is gratifying that the two sides have now resumed the dialogue on the basis of understanding achieved during the last meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries in New Delhi.

Abdul Sattar was speaking at a farewell function organized by the Delhi study group in the capital this evening. Sattar said the time is ripe for the conclusion of proposed nonaggression pact.

U.S. PLAN TO BACK DEMOCRATIC FORCES DENOUNCED

BK041240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 4 Jun 82

[Text] New Delhi, 4 Jun (AFP) -- The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) today strongly criticised the reported Reagan administration move to finance political parties, newspapers and trade unions in Third World countries. The party urged Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government to protest to the U.S.

In a statement here, CPI's National Council Secretary N.K. Krishnan denounced "this policy as one of open and shameless interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries." He added it was "fraught with serious consequences for these countries and their peoples."

The statement spoke of the intensification of the "imperialist threat" to India's sovereignty and integrity in recent years. It added that "the Indian Government must convey to the Reagan administration its protest in unmistakable terms." It also called upon the Indian people to launch a mass campaign to denounce the U.S. plan.

INDIAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN PUNJAB

BK081614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] An Indian Air Force aircraft crashed today about 20 km from Hoshiarpur in Punjab. The sole occupant of the aircraft, flying officer A.N. Gadgil, was killed. The cause of the accident is not yet known. The aircraft was on a normal training sortie.

ISRAELI 'AGGRESSION' IN LEBANON CONDEMNED

BK081632 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Pakistan has condemned Israel's inhuman aggression against Lebanon and demanded that Israel immediately end its aggression, cease all hostile acts and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

A Foreign Office spokesman, in a statement issued in Islamabad today, said that Pakistan has been swept by a wave of indignation and resentment over Israel's criminal aggression against Lebanon. This invasion of Lebanon was preceded by an indiscriminate Israeli air and naval bombardment, which resulted in the deaths of a large number of innocent civilians.

The spokesman said that this is yet another instance of Israel's flagrant and open violation of the UN Charter as well as international law and morality. The Government of Pakistan, while fully supporting the Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire and the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, urges all countries unequivocally to condemn Israel's brutal use of force and to take all necessary steps to foil its aggressive and expansionist designs.

The spokesman said that in this hour of trial the people of Pakistan reaffirm their total solidarity with the people of Lebanon and their Palestinian brothers who are engaged in a heroic struggle against Zionist expansionism and aggression.

Yaqub Khan on Israeli incursion, Gulf War

GF081822 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Dubayy, 8 Jun (QNA) -- Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation has reached the stage where we can no longer remain silent. He said that Israel may escalate its aggression as a result of the situation in the region. He noted that the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and the Arab nation will have a harmful effect on the Nonaligned Movement and will exacerbate differences in the Muslim world.

In an interview in today's issue of Dubayy's AL-BAYAN, Yaqub Khan says that the endeavors of the nonaligned countries and the Muslim world to end the Iraqi-Iranian war have not achieved anything, despite the efforts that were made prior to and during the meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau held recently in Havana -- efforts aimed at achieving a cease-fire. He says that the expansion of the war will have very serious consequences for both Iraq and Iran, as well as the entire region. Yaqub Khan adds: We are still exerting all our efforts to stop the fighting. Both sides are prepared to hear proposals from the Islamic Good Offices Committee.

Yaqub Khan stresses the need to separate the issue of convening the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad in September 1982 from the war, saying that it would be difficult to change the venue of the nonaligned summit conference. He expresses the hope that the convening of the nonaligned conference in Baghdad will not bring about differences within the Nonaligned Movement.

Referring to the forthcoming talks on the Afghan question which are scheduled to be held in Geneva on 16 June 1982, the Pakistani foreign minister says that the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will be the main issue to be discussed in these talks, which will include the repatriation of the Afghan refugees, international guarantees for Afghanistan's independence and a pledge not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Representatives of the DRA, Pakistani and Iranian Governments will take part in these talks to be held under UN auspices.

MILITARY COMMANDERS' PREDEPARTURE STATEMENTS

LD081018 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Tehran, 7 Jun (IRNA) -- A high ranking military and political delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran left this afternoon for Damascus to discuss Sunday's invasion of south Lebanon staged by the Zionist regime. The delegation is scheduled to meet both Syrian and PLO officials.

Included in the Iranian delegation were Colonel Salimi, the defence minister; Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, the commander of the ground forces; Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC); the president's special envoy and the political deputy of the foreign minister's African and Asian desk.

Before leaving Tehran three members of the group, in an interview with IRNA, described the purpose of the mission. Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi congratulating the Muslims on the birth anniversary of imam mahdi (A.S.) [peace be upon him] the 12th imam of the household of the prophet Mohammad (SAW) [God's greetings and peace be upon him] and the international day of the oppressed, June 8th, said following the invasion of the Zionist regimes into Muslim southern Lebanon and in accordance with the policy of the Islamic Republic to investigate and if need be to help the Muslims there under attack, the mission is travelling to Syria.

Colonel Shirazi emphasized the imam's recent statement concerning opposing cruelty and oppression perpetrated against Muslims and aiding the Muslims, especially those in southern Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees. He added that the Islamic Republic had the capacity to continue the war against Saddam and also dispatch forces to directly confront the Zionist regime.

Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the IRGC, said that the delegation, in coordination with the Supreme Defence Council, is headed to Syria to plan a religious war (jihad) against the Zionist regime which the nation has been longing for. He continued by repeating the imam's contention that the United States would never leave the Muslim nations in peace.

Today it is clear, Reza'i added, that the U.S. and Zionism have put into action a plot they had been waiting for for years. With the Islamic Republic involved in its war with Iraq, the Washington-Tel Aviv axis thought the time ripe to invade southern Lebanon and eventually occupy it and regions of Syria, with the approval of London and Paris.

Reza'i concluded by requesting that the Iranian nation prepare itself to fight against the Zionist regime and he welcomed the chance to wage war against the Jerusalem-occupying regime and Saddam Husayn simultaneously. Colonel Salimi, the defence minister, said the Muslim world knows the deadly silence from the regions' Arab reactionary regimes was in fact expressive of their satisfaction with this latest aggression by the Zionist regime. The Arab reactionaries view the invasion as the best response to the victories of the Islamic Republic's forces versus Saddam, he added. In conclusion Colonel Salimi said these reactionaries know that Iran's victory in the Iraqi imposed war will mean the fall of Saddam and they too will share his fate.

MONTAZERI CALLS FOR ARAB UNITY TO FIGHT ISRAEL

GF081014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Jun 82

["Text" of statement issued by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, apparently on 8 June -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whoever hears someone calling "Oh Muslims" and does not answer him is not a Muslim.

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, the savage assault launched by the Zionist entity against the Islamic country of Lebanon during which the blood of Muslims in southern Lebanon is being shed is the knell of danger sounded by the front of infidelity in the East and West against Islam and Islamic territories under circumstances where the satanic superpowers seem to stand behind illusive covers to collude against Muslims and Islam's progress. The clergy, the educated and learned of the Islamic nation and other categories of Muslims shoulder a heavy burden to foil this wide-scale assault and stave off its evil.

The great calamity in this case is that the will of the majority of the leaders and stooges of the Islamic countries has been stolen by the United States. We have no hope for them whatever. However, we worry over the silence of educated and committed scholars, orators and students in Islamic countries who watch the Zionist attack without doing a thing to save Muslims, eliminate the tyranny of international Zionism and remove the U.S. hands in the region. Is there any other way to material and spiritual self-determination for Muslims except through return to Islam, abidance by the guidance of its provisions and the consolidation of all Muslims? Are they looking toward international circles and the U.S. defense establishment for their human rights or are they waiting for promises from the Eastern bloc? In this case we should proclaim their naivete and ignorance.

How long will the Muslims ignore their material and spiritual capabilities? With their oil resources, they could force the United States and other imperialist countries to kneel. Why do they ignore the force of faith, unity and resignation to God the omnipotent? Why do they forget the history of Islam, which is full of sacrifices and struggle?

If the reactionary countries of the region had adopted a stand of refusal and rejection of the Camp David treaty -- the treaty of treachery and infamy -- the racist, usurping Zionist entity would have never dared today to strike at southern Lebanon with fire and steel. The blood of Muslims would have never been shed. If these countries had not supplied Saddam, the aggressor, with material and spiritual aid, and if they had thought of coordination with the young Islamic Republic of Iran that employs all its facilities in the war against the Zionist enemy instead of prolonging the war imposed against Iran, the strong Iraqi and Iranian Armies would have stood up with the rest of the anti-Israel countries as one man to thwart the tyrannical Zionist aggression by the enemy of the Arabs and Islam, and Israel would have never dared to tamper with the sanctuaries of Islam and the Arab people.

The Muslim Iranian people, under the leadership of the leader of the revolution, may he live long, have made up their mind to liberate the treasured Jerusalem and the Islamic sanctuaries. The Islamic Republic denounces the recent savage Israeli attack at a time when the republic is celebrating the birthday of the lord of the epoch, when our lives are sacrificed for him, in order to awaken the oppressed and weak in the world.

We hope that the war imposed by Saddam the infidel will end soon so that we may muster all our capabilities to save Al-Aqsa Mosque and occupied Palestine. We also hope that the free and nonaligned countries of the world will consciously and responsibly deal with the Middle East crisis and the danger of the usurping American Ba'thist Saddam regime in Iraq and Israeli Zionism, which threaten the stability and security of the world and the region, and will work to make the peoples who are oppressed by those regimes lose confidence in them and reconsider their treatment.

I ask Almighty God to bestow awareness and consciousness upon Muslims and to provide victory and glory to Islam and defeat and exterminate international Zionism and all enemies of Islam.

Ask Him to grant high ranks [in Heaven] to the martyrs of Islam. Victory to all Muslims in all areas and on all fronts! Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

RAFSANJANI ON LEBANON, GULF WAR, PEACE MISSIONS

LD082318 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jun (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) mostly discussed the Iraqi imposed war upon Iran as well as the future programmes of the Islamic Republic for "countering this aggressor regime". Speaking after a 2-hour session of the SDC on Monday night, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani said "we were expecting that new moves would be taken in the region under the U.S. command and, with regard to the statements of the U.S. secretary of state and the recent moves of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan, we expected the recent move of the Zionist regime." He stated that all these moves were connected with the recent victory of the Islamic combatants in Khorramshahr. He further added that the necessary decisions were taken and if necessary any measures would be taken to support Islamic countries especially south Lebanon and Syria if it enters into war against the Zionist regime. To this goal, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, an Iranian political-military delegation had been dispatched to Syria to coordinate the Islamic Republic forces with those in the war, he added.

The imam's representative at the SDC further added that there were countless volunteers for being dispatched to south Lebanon, and after investigating the precise number of forces needed in the region, Iran would dispatch troops as many as they [as received] needed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani further stated that the head of the Islamic countries' conference, Ahmed Sekou Toure, in a message from the Islamic peace mission, had invited President Khamene'i to visit Riyadh. He continued that since the implications of the invitation were not clear, therefore it could not be accepted. However, he said, it was decided that in reply, Iran's rightful terms for peace would be further stressed and that "we think there is no need for travelling here and there."

Talking about the future measures of the Islamic combatants for countering Saddam's brutal acts, the imam's representative said "we consider the Iraqi people as ours and cannot endorse the slightest injury, harm or damage upon them. Yet, we will counter Saddam at any chance and any place through military measures."

Analysing the chaotic situation in the region, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the recent developments of the region were all related to the victories of the Islamic combatants and the liberation of Khorramshahr.

The Monday session of the SDC was presided over by President Khamene'i and attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, imam's representative at the SDC, Prime Minister Musavi, Chief of Staff General Zahirnezhad, Commander of the Navy Captain Afzali, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Azizi, Deputy Commander of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] Sham'khani, managing director of war information headquarters Dr. Gharazi, and Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

PLO ENVOY BRIEFS KHAMENE'I ON LEBANON SITUATION

LD081302 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jun (IRNA) -- The Palestinian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Salah az-Zawawi, met and conferred Sunday afternoon with President Khamene'i.

Az-Zawawi, in this visit, presented the president with a detailed report on the recent air raid launched by the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon. Then the president, while expressing his sorrow over the incident, said that all the countries of the region claiming to condemn the Jerusalem occupying regime should now put their words into action, employ all their available resources and solve categorically the issue of Zionism.

The president further added that this Zionist enemy will not be able to do anything versus the righteous cause of the Palestinians. He concluded by saying that with respect to the invasion launched by the Zionist regime and the atrocities being committed in the occupied territories, Zionism is digging its own grave.

UAE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD081136 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jun (IRNA) -- Mr. 'Abdallah al-Mazru'i, the advisor of the UAE head, arrived here this morning. The special envoy of Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, was welcomed at the airport by a number of state officials. The UAE envoy is holding a message from Shaykh Zayid for President Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic. According to the UAE news agency, the message deals with the latest developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Delivers Message to Khamene'i

LD082318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr 'Abdullah al-Mazru'i, special envoy of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, who arrived in Tehran today, accompanied by his country's charge to the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been received by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president. After meeting and conferring with Mr Khamene'i, he handed a written message from the UAE president to his excellency.

At the meeting the UAE special envoy conveyed the warm and fraternal greetings of Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan to Mr Khamene'i and then, referring to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in disseminating Islam in the region, and emphasizing the greater tendency for unity among the Islamic nations, he said that victory over the enemies is impossible without unity among the Islamic nations; therefore, the most important issue for the Islamic nation is that it must be united.

In conclusion the special envoy expressed the best wishes of the UAE president to the Muslim and heroic Iranian nation and emphasized the great interest in and need for the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UAE in all dimensions.

Then Mr Khamene'i expressed hope for the expansion and strengthening of healthy and fraternal relations between the two countries of Iran and the UAE and, referring to the imposed war and the dissemination of false rumors and lies by the enemies of the Islamic revolution, he said: You certainly appreciate to what extent propaganda is important in creating a fraternal atmosphere or preventing and blocking it. In some countries in the region it seems that newspapers, magazines, radio and television have been created merely to make propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course it is natural that, in face of these measures, our power of self-control is limited. We hereby declare openly that our responses have been meagre and insignificant. Fortunately, having a realistic outlook, we do not view all our brothers in the Persian Gulf in the same way.

In another part of his speech, the president referred to America's interests in the region and the relations between the region's countries and America, and said: If these countries want to surrender themselves to America it is their business; but as far as it concerns us we shall resist America and with reliance on the Almighty we are sure that we shall be victorious.

Referring to the efforts of peace delegations and emphasizing the three main conditions set by the Islamic Republic of Iran for peace, Mr Khamene'i said: If some people want to impose an unjust peace on us, we will not be accepted it, because we consider an imposed peace, like an imposed war, unpleasant and intolerable.

If the aggressor is not punished, aggression will not be eradicated from the region. If a strong person allows himself to engage in aggression against others just because he has the power to do so, then not a stone will remain unturned. We do not wish to see such a situation in the Persian Gulf. From our point of view it is obvious that the threats made by the big powers will do nothing more than what they have already subjected us to; and this is a time when we take the whispers of the region's reactionary states as a threat not only to ourselves but to all the region's inhabitants.

Referring to the recent aggression of the Zionist regime against south Lebanon, Mr Khamene'i said: Today it is time for all those who have verbally supported the deprived people of Lebanon and the Palestinian nation to prove their honesty in practice and to use this opportunity for a serious struggle against the usurping Israel.

VELAYATI CITED ON READINESS TO FIGHT ISRAEL

LD090902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Jun 82

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in New York to take part in the disarmament conference there, took part in a press conference attended by correspondents of the world press, radio and television.

At the start of the press conference, the text of a statement on the recent aggression by the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon and the stance of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this savage aggression was read in Persian and English. Then our country's foreign minister answered reporters' questions.

In reply to a question on whether Iran intends to send troops to Lebanon to fight against the Zionist regime, Dr Velayati said: We consider this to be one of our primary duties. It is part of the strategic aims of the Islamic Republic to fight against the Zionist regime. At present, the defense minister, the ground forces commander, the Guards Corps commander and the president's representative are in Syria to assess the assistance requested and the mode of its dispatch. In this respect we shall not hesitate. If our brothers in Syria and Lebanon request it, we shall enter the war.

Mr Velayati stressed: We do not see any difference between the Zionist aggression and that of Saddam at-Tikriti against Iran. We are prepared to fight in both areas simultaneously.

He was asked: Are you receiving aid from foreign countries?

He replied: Our war is based on faith and belief; a war based on faith and belief does not require advanced weapons and complex technology. Contrary to what you think, such a war is not expensive, except that it is human beings who put their lives on the line. We are not receiving any form of aid from abroad. Most of the unsophisticated weapons and ammunition that our forces use in combat are either manufactured domestically or have been captured from the Iraqis.

He was asked: Are you declaring war against Israel?

He replied: Yes. And we have declared our readiness to go to war through official channels. We are fully prepared to engage in a conflict with the Zionist regime, whatever the cost.

OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN TEHRAN 8 JUNE

LD081106 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jun (IRNA) -- At the invitation of the Iranian Oil Ministry, the secretary general of the Organisation for the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr Nan N'guema, arrived here this morning. The OPEC secretary general who has been invited to take part in ceremonies here marking the international day of the oppressed, June 8, coinciding with the birth anniversary of imam mahdi, was welcomed at the airport by Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi and several other officials of the Oil Ministry.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 938

LD081802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Communique No 938 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While extending fresh congratulations and felicitations on the occasion of the happy and bountiful birthday of the 12th shining star in the firmament of the imamate, the holy mahdi -- may the exalted God hasten his esteemed release -- we would like to bring to the attention of our dear Muslim compatriots the events on the battlefronts of the imposed war which constitute acts of heroism and self-sacrifice by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and revolting crimes perpetrated by the Saddamist mercenaries and repeated blows suffered by them.

Yesterday an exchange of fire took place on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Salehabad and other western fronts and, thanks to the fire of our mighty forces on the enemy's positions and supply lines, losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamite forces and, while frustrating their supply operations and silencing their fire, one of their headquarters, several of their supply points and one of their trucks were destroyed and a number of enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded.

There was an exchange of fire on the fronts which come under the responsibility of the zealous warriors of the irregular tribal warfare units and the gendarmerie combatants in the western parts of the country, and in the Shur-e Shirin region the gendarmerie combatants, thanks to their heavy-weapon fire, destroyed several ammunition stores and killed a number of enemy servicemen.

On the Marivan front, Islam's resistant combatants, opening fire on the positions and deployment points of enemy units in the Panjwin and Haft Tawanan regions, destroyed several supply points and one antiaircraft gun together with its crew and prevented all movements by the Saddamist forces on the Toveyleh and (?Tufan) supply axis.

An exchange of fire also continued on the southern fronts and in the Jerusalem Operation zone. Islam's victorious heroes, opening artillery and heavy-weapon fire on enemy positions and units, inflicted casualties and losses on the Saddamist forces.

During the exchange of fire on the Khorramshahr front, our naval heroes pounded the Iraqi forces' positions and defensive lines on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silenced their fire and killed or wounded a number of enemy servicemen and also destroyed three heavy-weapon emplacements and one observation post of the Saddamists.

Yesterday several residential parts of the city of Abadan, as on previous days, came under enemy long-range artillery fire and in the course of the destruction of several houses a number of our dear Abadani compatriots were wounded.

The air raids launched by the aggressive Iraqi Army yesterday were wholly frustrated and enemy aircraft were forced to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

NVOI: IRAQI REGIME INITIATOR OF GULF WAR

TA081809 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 7 Jun 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Who Is Benefiting From This Imposed War?"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Now all those who are realistically assessing the development of the war imposed on our homeland's people acknowledge that fact that it was the Iraqi regime which, by violating the agreement concerning the settlement of territorial disputes between the two countries, sent its army into our Islamic Republic's territory and occupied part of our homeland's soil.

The imposed war has been going on for about 2 years. What is the outcome of this war and bloodshed? Although at the outset, by exploiting the problems facing our emancipated homeland after the revolution, and by taking advantage of the treacheries of the liberals and the Bani-Sadr clique, the Iraqi regime occupied part of our country's soil, it was not long before our combatant nation, mobilizing all its fighting capabilities, was able through counterattacks to expel the aggressive enemy from its territory and cleanse a major part of the occupied territories from the presence of the aggressive foe.

The consequence of this war and bloodshed both for our Islamic Republic and the oppressed Iraqi nation is horrible, whether from the financial viewpoint or in human life. The oil and economic institutions of both countries, which are the result of the toil and work of millions of working people, have been reduced to ruins. Towns and villages have been transformed into heaps of ashes. The oil and gas exports of both countries have been substantially reduced. The calculation and estimation of the intensity of the blows which this war imposed by the United States and its regional lackeys has inflicted on our emancipated homeland and the Iraqi nation is a difficult task.

As far as we are all aware, the Iraqi regime is still stubbornly and futilely insisting on occupying a part of our homeland's soil, and continues to savagely bomb nonmilitary areas, town and villages. In these acts the Iraqi regime is counting on the support and participation of Oman on its side in this war, and on obtaining war material from Egypt.

As far as evidence shows, some of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region do not approve of the prolongation of this imposed war. However, the Saudi Arabian regime continues to assist the Iraqi regime, both from the economic and political viewpoints, in prolonging this war and bloodshed. Saudi Arabia's policy is precisely in the direction of America's line and its allies, and is based on aggravating the situation in the Persian Gulf and prolonging the imposed war against our nation.

Public opinion and the nations of the countries of the Near East and the Persian Gulf justly believe that the continuation of this war imposed by America and its agents in the region inflicts the greatest human and material losses on the nations of both countries. As we are aware, the United States is striving with the utmost power and with all capabilities to prolong this imposed war.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is not sitting idle, and is feverishly engaged in exploiting this war -- a war which world-devouring America has imposed on our nation and the deprived and tortured Iraqi people -- from the military and strategic viewpoints. The United States is attempting to use this imposed war as a pretext for consolidating its military positions in the Persian Gulf region. Thus, it has in fact exposed the independence and national sovereignty of all the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to danger.

Under the false pretext of an unstable situation in the region, which allegedly has endangered the export of oil from the Persian Gulf to the West, the United States has moved its massive armed and naval forces into the Arabian Sea, and has extensively and actively laid siege to the Persian Gulf region with its military bases.

Therefore, it is Washington that is benefiting from this war which it has imposed on our nation, both from the military and strategic viewpoints. It intends not only to bring the Hormuz Strait -- this sole sea lane for the export of oil of the oil-possessing countries of the Persian Gulf -- under its control, but at the same time it plans to move its armed forces into the Persian Gulf countries and to occupy the oil resources of these countries.

In order to accelerate and expand its influence and consolidate its military positions in the region, the United States needs a tense and unstable climate. For this reason, before the flame of war and bloodshed has been extinguished in one part of our region, America starts a conflagration in another part, for example in Lebanon, through the aggressor Israel and commits aggression on Lebanese territory and kills hundreds and thousands of defenseless Palestinian people.

The nations of our region must not ignore even for moment this ruse and ploy by world-devouring America. The anti-peoples schemes of world-devouring America and its allies should be thwarted through revolutionary vigilance and the creation of conditions for alliance and unity of word and action of all progressive, revolutionary, popular, anti-imperialist and Islamic forces of the people and the nations of our region.

KHOMEYNI APPOINTS RECONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

LD081832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Yusof Sane'i as the imam's representative in the supreme council in charge of the reconstruction of war-stricken areas.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS ON UNREST IN CITIES

GF061855 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 6 Jun 82

[Text] Reports reaching us from various parts of Iran show evidence of continued contention between the national forces and confrontation with officials of the so-called Islamic regime.

Our correspondents have reported from quite a few areas -- namely, Tabriz, Mashhad and Shiraz -- that widespread clashes between armed combatants and the regime's guards took place and that even now the situation in these cities is not normal and people seem perturbed. We have more news from Free Voice of Iran reporters about violent clashes between the Muslim and patriotic people of Mashhad and the followers of Khomeyni.

In this report from that direct source, it has been said that protests and demonstrations of the people of Mashhad are still continuing, and the public execution of 200 prisoners has not been able to silence the clamor of the noble and honorable people of Mashhad. According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, during the course of the demonstrations in Mashhad, the city bazaar remained closed, and on behalf of the genuine clergy, namely, His Eminence Tabataba'i Qomi, communicates criticizing the religious despotism and the inhuman and repressive conduct of the guards and mullahs of the regime of the so-called Islamic regime were distributed among the people.

Similarly, last Tuesday the noble people of Tabriz converged in a wave of public protest on government centers and (?spurious) organizations of the deceitful and anti-Islamic Khomeyni regime and set them on fire. In this massive clash, a group of guards from Azarbayjan who are emulators of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari joined forces with the public. But another group of the guards, who had been sent to Azarbayjan from Tehran and other districts to control and suppress the people of Tabriz, fired on the people and killed them.

The honorable people of Tabriz killed some guards of the Khomeyni regime in retaliation and set fire to some trucks carrying the guards.

According to reports from Shiraz, it is obvious that there is also tension in this city due to opposition of the people to the antinational and anti-Islamic mullahs' regime. In many areas the bazaars and shops remained closed and it is expected that the clashes of the past few days may be repeated.

It may be recalled that the so-called Islamic regime of Khomeyni has refrained from mentioning these incidents. According to our analyst, extensive clashes in Tehran and in the bigger cities like Tabriz, Mashhad and Shiraz are reminiscent of the clashes of the people of Iran with the government in the winter of 1977. It is possible that in event of the increased unrest, the so-called Islamic regime will be toppled by a public rebellion in Iran.

'EXECUTION' OF TEHRAN CLERGYMAN REPORTED

GF070851 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 6 Jun 82

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Samarqandi, prayer imam of Narmak [district in south of Tehran], has been killed in an attack.

According to the Free Voice of Iran reporter, the government newspaper KEYHAN reported that Samarqandi, Friday imam of 'Abolfazl mosque in Narmak, was returning home when his automobile was hit with a volley of machinegun fire from occupants of another car. He succumbed to his injuries.

Our correspondent adds that during the course of the revolutionary execution of the Mullah Samarqandi, a guard named Eta'ati was also injured.

NVOI SCORES IRANIAN COVERAGE OF AFGHAN FIGHTING

TA071004 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 6 June carried a commentary, entitled "Quoting Reports and Rumors of Imperialist News Agencies Is Beneath the Dignity of Our Country," saying it is an undeniable fact that many of the so-called Afghan mujahidin in our country are engaged in committing crimes, robbery and smuggling.

So far reports about the crimes of these Reaganite Afghan mujahidin in Iran have been repeatedly published in our country's newspapers. These Afghan counterrevolutionaries, who unfortunately are also Muslim, are in fact the allies of the Iranian counterrevolutionaries and intermediaries between the counterrevolution within the country and elements of U.S. imperialism abroad, particularly in Pakistan.

With deep regret, our country's propaganda organization, under the impact of mental prejudice, is defending these professional killers, and is placing these bands expelled from Afghan society on the same level as the Palestinian fighters.

Not a day passes without reports about the so-called attacks and victories by elements of the feudalists and expelled Afghan capitalists, the downing of scores of jet fighters, the elimination of tens of tanks and the killing of thousands of soldiers in Afghanistan being disseminated by the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Were we to add up all these reports about the so-called victories of the Afghan mujahidin, we would come to the conclusion that there no longer exists a living soul in Afghanistan.

Quoting false reports and rumors of Western and U.S. news agencies as reliable news is beneath the dignity of our country's propaganda organization.

Our homeland's people desire the establishment of good and normal relations with our friendly and neighboring country, democratic Afghanistan. Afghan officials also desire friendship with revolutionary Iran, and certainly practical measures should be taken toward this end.

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ATTACK SOVIET BASE IN DRA

GF031619 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 3 Jun 82

[Text] Afghan mujahidin attacked an important Soviet base north of Kabul yesterday and destroyed 12 jet fighter aircraft.

According to a spokesman of the mujahidin, the attack was in retaliation for the Soviet-Afghan joint attack in the Panjsher Valley in Parvan Province recently.

The mujahidin announced that during the Soviet-Afghan forces' attack in Panjsher more than 1,000 Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed and 57 tanks were destroyed.

BRIEFS

GOLD, CURRENCY SEIZURE -- Hormozgan revolution guards seized 1,108,000 rials, 235 dirhams and a gold necklace from a launch and arrested the two passengers on board. They were later handed over to the Islamic Revolution Court of Bandar-e 'Abbas. [Bandar-e 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 18 May 82 GF]

KHORASAN COAL RESERVES -- The quantity of coal deposits in the southern part of Khorasan Province is estimated to be approximately one billion tons. This was revealed to IRNA by a foreign expert, who added that the quality of the coal is exactly what is required to feed the steel complexes of Iran. [Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 May 82 p 1 GF]